

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SAM-01 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8125

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US YO RQ

SUBJ: C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO: YUGOSLAV POSITION

1. FSFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS) KOMATINA USED OCCASION OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL SEP 10 (OTHER SUBJECTS OF WHICH REPORTED SEPTELS) TO INFORM HIM THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD DECIDED TO ABSTAIN IF RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO WERE BROUGHT TO A VOTE IN C-24. HE EMPHASIZED THAT YUGOSLAVS "DON'T WANT US TO GET THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESSURE IS PRODUCTIVE". YUGOSLAVIA'S POSITION, HE ASSERTED, IS BASED UPON THEIR REALIZATION THAT "PUERTO RICO IS (AN ISSUE) CLOSE TO U.S. INTERNAL AFFAIRS". HE ADDED THAT TO THE EXTENT CUBA AND U.S. SHARED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE STRENGTHS IN THE COMMITTEE IT MARKED THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD "AGREED ON PUERTO RICO". AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IN VIEW OF YUGOSLAVS' ABSTENTION ON PUERTO RICO IN C-24 LAST YEAR HE HAD NOT EXPECTED THEY WOULD DO ANY LESS HAD MATTER BEEN BROUGHT TO A VOTE AGAIN THIS YEAR. KOMATINA RESPONDED THAT PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION WAS "QUITE DIFFERENT THIS TIME", "LESS ELABORATE" AND NOT AS "ANTI-AMERICAN". ASKED WHETHER DECISION TO ABSTAIN HAD BEEN A "CLOSE" ONE FOR GOY, KOMATINA WOULD STATE ONLY THAT WHILE IT HAD BEEN A DECISION ON A PROCEDURAL MATTER IT HAD OBVIOUS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

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3. FOR USUN: KOMATINA SEEMED LESS THAN WELL BRIEFED ON
C-24 LINEUP ON PUERTO RICO BUT CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT
YUGOSLAVIA'S POSITION AND CUBA'S KNOWLEDGE THEREOF HAD
BEEN IMPORTANT FACTORS IN DISCOURAGING LATTER FROM FORCING
A VOTE ON THE ISSUE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FOR THE RECORD
YOUR ESTIMATE OF HOW IMPORTANT YUGOSLAVIA'S REPORTED
INTENT TO ABSTAIN WAS IN FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF C-24'S
CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO THIS YEAR.
SILBERMAN

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